to look into all the records the findings of the committee, the evidence they had taken, resolutions that were passed here and all the discussions that took place in the matter and then frame a report. That had to be checked by the Secretary and the Diwan and final orders were passed. And when final orders were passed, they were found to be quite unsatisfactory and a good deal of criticism was provoked and much unpleasantness created.

Now, this is hardly the time to enter upon such a procedure. Therefore, I would suggest that this House should not put the Government to an almost apparently false position of simply declaring that they are not sympathetic towards the low-paid staff which in fact is not the case. I say Government are really sympathetic towards them. But there are practical difficulties standing in the way. Government cannot take up the question of one department alone. Of course, on account of the rise in the price of commodities some difficulty has been caused. And to meet that, we have introduced the system of dearness allowance. Government will absolutely have no objection to revise this allowance from time to time. As a matter of fact, we are even doing it now. When they find that the allowance granted is unfair, Government will be very willing to revise the rate and increase the allowance. If a procedure like that is followed, at least till the present war is over, there will be uniformity and there will not be any complaint of invidious distinctions and things of that kind. Therefore, what I would suggest to the Hon'ble member is that he must withdraw this resolution on the assurance of the Government that they would consider the question of revising the dearness allowance that has been granted to low-paid staff from time to time. But a general revision of the salary at this stage is not possible. Moreover, even among the low-paid staff there are several cadres. It will be much more appropriate to leave it to the Government to revise the dearness allowance from time to time. Then there will be uniformity and there will be no complaint of invidious distinctions being made. After the war is over, and when times get to normal, we will take up the question of general revision if the House is so pleased. That will be the more appropriate procedure to adopt rather than to move a resolution to revise the pay with reference to one department alone.

Mr. President: Speaking on this resolution, I would also remind the Hon'ble mover that it was in February this year that the Government granted dearness allowance to the low-paid Government servants to take effect from December. We are now carefully watching the price of foodstuffs and the rise in the index figures at various centres and if justified Government will not hesitate to increase the dearness allowance paid to the low-paid staff in every department, regard being had to the financial position in which we are placed.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, the case of the Anchal Department is different. On a point of information, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Secretary whether the Superintendent of Registration and Anchal did not recommend some two or 3 years back to revise their salary, after stopping the stamp commission which they were getting at the rate of 2½ per cent from the year 1107 and whether as a result of that recommendation the stamp commission was stopped, leaving alone the question of revising their pay. When the stamp commission was stopped, these poor people were given false hopes that their pay would be revised but that has not been done so far. May I know whether the Government would now be pleased to consider the question of reviving the stamp commission paid to these poor people, in case they are not in favour of revising their pay?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* That is a different question altogether. If it is the Hon'ble member's intention that the Government should reconsider the question of reviving the stamp commission, of course, Government will have no objection to examine that.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* In view of the Diwan-President's statement, I may say that if the Government is going to consider that, at least for the time being, I do not mean to press this resolution. In the case of the low-paid menials some revision should be made.

Resolution by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION No. 47

Constituting the Kallur Vadakkummuri Village into a Separate Panchayat

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I move that "*This Council recommends to the Government that the Kallur Vadakkummuri village in the Mukundapuram Taluk be constituted a separate Panchayat.*"

This is a village which forms part of the Adur Panchayat. It has a population of 10,000 and for the more efficient working of the Panchayats and for the purpose of inculcating into the minds of the people the principles of self-Government, it is better to bifurcate this Adur

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Panchayat. I understand that the Adur Panchayat has also passed a resolution supporting this proposition. I would request Government to consider this matter.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I second it.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The Hon'ble member requests through this resolution to have a separate Panchayat for one single village. This village is included within the jurisdiction of the Adur Panchayat now. That Panchayat consists of 9 members. The village is represented now. The question is whether we should have a separate Panchayat at present. The constitution of a separate Panchayat means additional expenditure.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* How much ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* House rent, clerk, office expenses, sweeping charges and such other things.

As this is not a very urgent necessity, I would earnestly request the Hon'ble member in view of the present financial condition of the State to withdraw the resolution and to renew it at better times.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I am not going to press the resolution. Every resolution I bring here I do not press. Only in suitable cases I press. In this case, I wanted to hear the Government's view. The expenditure I think is negligible. After all, I think you will get a house free of rent in Adur.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Certainly not.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* For the Pariyaram Panchayat, they were paying no rent till last year. It was only from last year that they have begun to pay Rs. 2. Pariyaram is certainly a better village than Kallur Vadakkummuri.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Certainly not.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I think Mr. Govinda Menon will give free quarters to house the Panchayat. He is one who wants to see his village prospering and getting into prominence. All the argument against is expenditure. After all, I think the additional expenditure would be only Rs. 25 a year according to my calculation.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* What about the clerk ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* No clerk would be required.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* And sweeper ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* That is a minor matter. Even now they are sweeping.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* It is a sweeping remark. *(Laughter).*

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Therefore, according to my calculations, the expenditure would be Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 a year. Government may try and make an estimate. With the hope that I may bring this matter again in the near future, I do not press my resolution now. I request the House that I may be granted leave to withdraw my resolution.

Resolution by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION No. 48

Holding of the General Elections to the Legislative Council in the end of Medam or the 1st week of Edavam

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Mr. President, Sir, I move the following resolution.—

"This Council recommends to the Government the desirability to hold hereafter the General Elections to the Legislative Council in the second or third week of Medam".

When I tabled this resolution, I wanted to bring to the notice of the House and the Government that elections may be held during the 2nd or 3rd week of Medam. I would be satisfied if elections are held in the 1st week of Edavam. In the last general elections, elections were held practically in the last week of Edavam with the result that it was very difficult owing to the rain to bring the voters to the polling booths, and especially in the case of the poor candidates who cannot supply vehicles or any other conveniences to the voters the hardship will be very much. I commend this resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* I second it.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* It is better to have it in the end of Medam or the 1st week of Edavam before monsoon.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I find that elections in the year 1103 was held on 10th Edavam, in 1106 on the 6th Edavam, in 1110 on the 6th Edavam and in 1113 on the 24th Edavam.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* If possible, have it at the end of Medam.

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